

Serial No.: 10/532,789
Examiner: Alexander S. Noguerola
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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) An analytical tool comprising:
 - a substrate;
 - a cover stacked on the substrate via a spacer;
 - a capillary formed between [[on]] the substrate and the cover, the capillary including an introduction port for taking a sample liquid into the capillary;
 - a stepped portion projecting from the substrate for preventing the sample liquid in the capillary from moving further; and
 - a reagent portion provided in the capillary between the introduction port and the stepped portion;
 - wherein the stepped portion is greater in height with respect to the substrate than the reagent portion,
 - wherein the cover is formed with an air vent hole for discharging air from the capillary when the sample liquid moves in the capillary,
 - wherein the stepped portion is located at a position corresponding to an edge portion of the air vent hole for preventing the sample liquid in the capillary from moving beyond the edge portion to flow out through the air vent hole.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously presented) The analytical tool according to claim 1, wherein the stepped portion comprises a conductive layer formed on the substrate and an insulating layer covering the conductive layer.
4. (Original) The analytical tool according to claim 3, further comprising a plurality of electrodes provided on the substrate for applying voltage to the sample liquid.

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5. (Original) The analytical tool according to claim 4, wherein the conductive layer is formed as a dummy electrode which does not contribute to the voltage application to the sample liquid.

6. (Original) The analytical tool according to claim 5, wherein the dummy electrode is formed simultaneously with the plurality of electrodes.

7. (Original) The analytical tool according to claim 4, wherein the plurality of electrodes include a detection electrode for detecting whether or not the sample liquid of an amount necessary for analysis is supplied into the capillary, and
wherein the conductive layer is provided by the detection electrode.

8. (Currently amended) The analytical tool according to claim 4, ~~further comprising an air vent for discharging air from the capillary in moving the sample liquid in the capillary;~~
wherein the insulating layer includes an opening which exposes part of the electrodes and which extends along the capillary; and

wherein, as viewed in a thickness direction of the substrate, a most downstream point of the opening in a flow direction of the sample liquid is located on a same line or almost same line as a most upstream point of the air vent hole in the flow direction of the sample liquid, the stepped portion being located adjacent to the most upstream point of the air vent in the flow direction of the sample liquid.

9-12. (Canceled)